

21 NOV 1984

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 THE STANDARD  
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## Decision on AIDS 'too late'

by Alan Massam

THE decision to discourage homosexuals from donating blood—to stop the spread of the killer-disease AIDS—should have been taken by the Government 18 months ago.

That was the reaction today of Dr John Seale, a leading expert in sexually-transmitted diseases, after the deaths of two haemophiliacs from the disease.

### Alert

Dr Seale, who was formerly consultant venereologist at the Middlesex Hospital, West End, said he had been trying to alert public health officials to the implications of the AIDS threat for nearly two years.

"I wrote to both Mrs Thatcher and the Public Health Laboratory Services to suggest blood transfusion policy changes then," she said.

"That was when the Americans started to clamp down on homosexual blood donors and we should have followed their example immediately. Recent studies have shown that a substantial proportion of haemophiliacs have already been exposed to the virus so the damage may have already been done."